

S 1286

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

January 26, 1973

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith a note of September 16, 1965 from the Government of Ethiopia and a reply note of October 20, 1972 from the Government of the United States which would terminate notes exchanged on September 7, 1951 concerning the administration of justice and constituting an integral part of the treaty of amity and economic relations between the United States and Ethiopia.

I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the proposed termination.

The notes which it is proposed be terminated set forth special provisions regarding the trial of cases involving American citizens and regarding the imprisonment of American citizens. The termination of the notes would be in conformity with this Government's policy of basing international agreements in general on the principles of equality and reciprocity.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the notes submitted herewith and give its advice and consent to termination of the notes exchanged on September 7, 1951.

RICHARD NIXON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, January 26, 1973.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. ROBERT C. BYRD. Mr. President, how much time do I have remaining under the order?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The time of the Senator has expired.

Mr. ROBERT C. BYRD. I thank the Presiding Officer.

TRANSACTION OF ROUTINE MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order there will now be a period for the transaction of routine morning business not to exceed 45 minutes with the statements made therein limited to 5 minutes each.

QUORUM CALL

Mr. WEICKER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The second assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ROBERT C. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AGREEMENT ON WITHDRAWAL OF OUR MILITARY FORCE FROM INDOCHINA

Mr. AIKEN. Mr. President, tomorrow night an agreement will be signed in Paris which will result in the complete withdrawal of our military forces from Indochina.

We have waited a long time for this agreement.

We have waited impatiently and have been blaming almost everyone but ourselves for the predicament which has involved us in Southeast Asia for the last 12 years.

The agreement reached in Paris will be signed by all four parties involved in the military controversy of Indochina—the South Vietnamese, the North Vietnamese, the Vietcong, and ourselves.

To reach this agreement has not been easy.

At times it seemed impossible and yet now, 5 years later, we have reached an agreement.

It is true that each of the four parties involved will claim that victory is theirs.

That does not matter.

What matters is that 60 days after the signing of the agreement tomorrow night, all American prisoners of war held by the erstwhile enemy will have been returned to us, and all the remaining military personnel—that is, our military personnel—some 20,000 which are still in South Vietnam, will have been evacuated.

Of course, the agreement is not perfect.

No agreement of this sort was ever perfect.

But, this agreement represents a new epoch in world history and must be made to work, as I am sure it will.

During the next 60 days our troops will be withdrawn and our POWs will be returned to us and missing in action accounted for as far as possible.

The various parties of Indochina will be given a free hand to settle their differences under the watchful eye of a four-nation commission.

And so I say, in quoting one of our famous New England poets: "Let the dead past bury its dead" and concentrate on the work which lies ahead.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. AIKEN. I yield.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I am sorry I did not hear all of the remarks of the distinguished Senator from Vermont, but I do want to make a comment apropos to the settlement in Southeast Asia.

I recall vividly 6 years ago when the distinguished Senator from Vermont made a speech on the floor of the Senate—I repeat, 6 years ago—in which he said that what we ought to do was announce that we have achieved a victory and then withdraw.

Since the announcement of the settlement has become public, I note that all four sides involved, and maybe others, have indicated that they have won, and therefore peace is in hand and certain withdrawals will take place.

May I say that the distinguished Senator showed foresight 6 years ago, and that his formula seems to have been the happy medium by means of which an agreement, at least in part, has been reached or is almost reached, and hopefully will be reached when the various documents are signed tomorrow.

I would hope that once this is done and our troops withdrawn within a 60-day period, as the agreement calls for.

and our POWs and recoverable missing in action are released during the same period and brought home, as is called for in the agreement, this would mark the beginning of the end of our participation, or I might say intervention, in the internal affairs of Southeast Asia, and that we would at last recognize that we are not the world's policemen, that we have a limited amount of resources, that our manpower is not unlimited, and that we have problems here at home as well as abroad.

And may I say that I would anticipate that the Nixon doctrine, which was promulgated almost 3 years ago by the President of the United States, would now go into effect. That means, as I interpret it, that we would gradually withdraw militarily from various countries throughout Asia and the world, that these countries would henceforth have to depend upon themselves primarily. As far as our allies are concerned, we would be willing to extend backup help of an economic nature, but would not intervene or interfere in any way in the affairs of any nation.

So I think that while a prophet is supposed to be without honor at home, the proposal made by the distinguished Senator from Vermont 6 years ago has now come through, and I wish to extend to him personally as much credit as I can for the sound suggestion he made at that time and the final promulgation of the Aiken proposal, which now seems to be embraced by every participant in this tragedy which is Indochina.

Mr. AIKEN. Well, Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Montana. I will only say that if I had anything to do with reaching the final agreement which will be signed tomorrow night, and any credit at all is due, it was worth while waiting for. But it was a little longer in coming than I had hoped for.

What I was trying to point out today is that instead of trying to recriminate and place the blame, which has belonged to all of us—we all had a share in it—let us get on with the business at hand.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I agree with the distinguished Senator. It does no good to look to the past, but we all ought to look to the present and prepare for the future, and hope a mistake of this nature will never, never occur again.

Mr. AIKEN. We learned a lesson. We learned it at high cost.

Mr. MANSFIELD. We did.

Mr. AIKEN. But I think we have learned it, and I think the agreement which will be signed tomorrow night will be of tremendous value.

THE REMARKABLE PROGRESS OF THE NORTHWEST NORTH CAROLINA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Mr. ROBERT C. BYRD. Mr. President, recently I had the pleasure of being the guest of the Northwest North Carolina Development Association at the association's annual dinner in Winston-Salem.

I was shown great courtesy by the officers of the association, and I am particu-